

Application Serial No. 10/684,753
Attorney Docket No. 10021281-01
Reply to Office Action dated October 2, 2007

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 14-37 were cancelled without prejudice, and claim 38 was added. Claims 1-13 and 38 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the pending rejection and allowance of all the pending claims in light of the following remarks.

Affirmation of Election

The Office Action acknowledges Applicants' election without traverse of Claims 1-13. Applicants acknowledge withdrawal of Claims 14-37 as being drawn a nonelected group. In response to the withdrawal of Claims 14-37, Applicants have canceled Claims 14-37, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rejection of Claims 1-13, Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,704,101 (hereinafter "Rangarajan") in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,235,153 (hereinafter "Rinde"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and do not concede any characterizations of the cited reference or pending claims set forth in the Office Action.

Claim 1 sets forth "circuitry that disables one or more outputs of said power supply." Disabling the output of the power supply has several advantages, as opposed to simply disconnecting it by a structure such as a mechanical relay. For example, it does not expose the system to damage by in-rush currents used to charge bypass capacitance. See specification at page 12, lines 1-4.

Both Rangarajan and Rinde fail to teach or suggest a combination that includes this structure. Page 3, paragraph 3 of the Office Action states that Rangarajan does not include "means to disable power to the motors of the device" Rangarajan fails to teach or suggest "circuitry that disables one or more outputs of said power supply."

Rinde teaches a structure in which the input to the motor coil is disconnected, not an output of the power supply. With reference to coil 68 by way of example, power passes from the power supply 194, through a control position transducer 166, through a demodulating, shaping and filtering element 168, through a servoamplifier 170, through a relay 209, and to the coil 68.

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If a fault is detected, the circuit opens the relay 209 thereby disconnecting the input to the motor coil 68. As a result, all of the elements of the circuit (including the amplifiers, transducers, filters, and the like) still receive power from the power supply 194 and are exposed to potential damage. This operation is the same regardless of whether the fault is detected in the motor (col. 10, lines 46-64), a motor position transducer (col. 10, line 65-col. 11, line 14), or in the power supply itself (col. 11, lines 15-31).

This structure disclosed in Rinde uses a mechanical relay to disconnect the input to the motor, not the output of the power supply as set forth in the pending claims. Rinde also fails to teach or suggest "circuitry that disables one or more outputs of said power supply." Therefore, no combination of Rangarajan and Rinde will result in the claimed combination of elements, and Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references and request withdrawal of the pending rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references and request issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Applicants note that there may be reasons and arguments that the pending claims are patentably distinct from the cited references in addition to those raised herein. Applicants reserve the right to raise any such reason or argument in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 2, 2008



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